

the remnants of a chimney with a quantity of ashes, calcine bones, etc. Moreover, everything corresponded to the accounts which Vérendrye had left about the locality, and they solemnly erected on the site a cross with the inscription:

FORT ST. CHARLES.

FOUNDED 1732.

VISITED 1902.

Great enthusiasm reigned among the explorers on their return home; but after a while doubts began to arise about the advisability of accepting their find as conclusive. The stones and the ashes were scarcely a firm enough foundation to stand on. The old chief Powassin had told them he was sure of it, but he might have been mistaken. It is true that another chief, whose name we fear all the printers of the world will gag at, for it is nothing short of Andakamigowinimi, agreed with him about Frenchmen having been there, but from time to time he alluded to a fort on the other side of the inlet. His casual utterances did not attract much attention then, but they afterwards proved to be a very valuable clue. So the conviction gradually began to force itself into the minds of those interested, that Fort St. Charles had not yet been discovered.

In 1908 another expedition was organized. The Archbishop's absence in Europe explains why he did not lead it. It started on July 10, and was composed of Jesuit priests and lay brothers. They embarked at Kenora, or Rat Portage, in an autoboat of their own construction. With absolute trust in Divine Providence and serious doubts about the boat, they started out on the lake singing the *Ave Maris Stella*. At 2 o'clock in the afternoon they arrived at American Point down at the entrance of the lake. The next morning they started, as usual, along the north shore, but several hours' search ended in complete failure. Providence, however, came to the rescue by letting Father Paquin cut his foot very badly while driving tent pegs, thus rendering him unfit for work.